REMARKS

Applicants respectfully respond to the Final Office action dated March 21, 2007 in order to place the application in condition for immediate allowance. In the amendment that was filed immediately prior to the Final Office action, all of the claims were canceled except for claims 21 and 22, which were extensively amended. The examiner then issued a rejection of these two claims based upon the combined teachings of Brewer et al in view of Dockser.

However, on page 8 of the office action, the examiner acknowledged that neither of the references discussed deep packet processing on only the frame header and not the frame payload. He further suggested that with an appropriate amendment of these two claims, the claims would distinguish over the references.

Accordingly, the claims have been reworded while keeping within the scope of the disclosure of the specification. This was achieved by specifying in the preamble of each claim that each frame is comprised of a header field and a data field. The claims then recite that the deep packet processing is performed on the frame's data field. This language is consistent with the disclosure which specifies that the deep packet processing is conducted by the core engine only _after_ the header field has been read to determine the nature of the processing that is to be carried out on the data field.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment to the claims now places the application in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, amended claims 21 and 22, the only two claims remaining in the application, should, therefore, be deemed to be
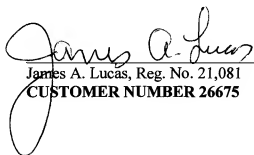
immediately allowable. The examiner is respectfully requested to enter this amendment and to take such additional action as is consistent therewith.

If there are any minor matters that can easily be resolved by phone or by email, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned as a step toward resolution.

Reconsideration and allowance are now respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: __April__ , 2007

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